THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) Student teacher ratio (provisional) in primary, upper-primary, and high/higher secondary schools from 1999-2000 to 2003-04 in the country is given below:

Year	Primary Schools	Upper-Primary Schools	High/Higher Secondary Schools
1999-2000	43	38	32
2000-2001	43	38	32
2001-2002	43	34	34
2002-2003	42	34	33
2002-2004	45	35	33

(b) According to information received from the Government of the National Capital Territory (GNCT) of Delhi this is not the case

Extension of time-limit for Ph.D. and NET aspirants

†2183. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have extended time-limit for completing Ph.D. degree besides National Eligibility Test (NET) for appointment to the posts of lecturers in universities and colleges;

(b) if so, the basis for the same and whether Government are considering the above time-limit in case of M. Phil. degree also; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and whether any schemes is under consideration to extend such time-limit in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission (UGC), the candidates who have submitted Ph. D. thesis to the university in concerned subject on or before 31st December, 2002

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

are exempted from appearing in National Eligibility Test (NET). In case such candidates fail to obtain Ph. D. degree, they shall have to pass NET examination. Further, the candidates who have completed M. Phil. degree by 31st December, 1993 are exempted from appearing in NET examination. Government has recently set up a Committee to review the existing scheme of NET.

Reduction of Seats in Technical Courses

2184. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the AICTE rolled back from the reduction in seats it made in engineering, MCA and nursing colleges across the country;

(b) if so, the details of seats reduced initially and rolled back afterwards, State-wise;

(c) the reasons for reducing the number of seats in various colleges;

(d) whether seats have also been reduced in some Government colleges; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (e) The AICTE, in exercise of its mandate, insist on fulfillment of the requirements as per prescribed norms for imparting technical education by the institutions so that the quality of education delivered is not compromised. For the year 2005-06, the AICTE had undertaken a single comprehensive inspection of institutions. A number of deficiencies including shortage of faculty were observed by the AICTE. The Council decided to focus only on the most critical deficiency i.e. shortage of faculty and accordingly, the seats were reduced.

The number of seats reduced during 2005-06 in MCA were 7620 and in Engineering and Technology institutes were 27164. The Nursing colleges do not come under the purview of AICTE. The institutions were given opportunity to seek restoration of intake upto their sanctioned intake of 2004-05, if they make up the deficiency in faculty and intimated the Council. Meanwhile, AICTE has restored 22807 seats in Engineering and Technology institutes and 5471 seats in MCA. The State-wise details of